Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 1, line 21 and ending at page 2, line 20 to read, as follows.

--Fig. 5 is a ~~cross sectional~~ cross-sectional view of the apparatus. The apparatus shown in Fig. 5 is provided with photosensitive drums 20 for respective colors of yellow, magenta, cyan and black. Each photosensitive drum 20 is composed of an electrically conductive member coated with a photosensitive layer, on which an electrostatic latent image is to be formed by a laser beam emitted from a scanning type optical device. Reference numeral 21 designates the scanning type optical device that emits a laser beam based on image information sent from an image reading apparatus or a personal computer etc. (none of which is shown in the drawings), reference numeral 22 designates a developing device for forming a toner image on the photosensitive drum with triboelectrically charged toner, reference numeral 23 designates an intermediate transfer belt for transferring the toner image on the photosensitive drum onto a transferring sheet, reference numeral 24 designates a feed cassette that accommodates paper sheets on which toner images are to be formed, reference numeral 25 designates a fixing device for causing the toner image having been transferred on the sheet to adhere to it with heat, and reference numeral 26 designates a delivery tray on which the transferring sheet on which the image has been fixed is to be stacked.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 3, line 16 and ending at page 4, line 19 to read, as follows.

--Fig. 6 is a diagrammatic sketch showing an image forming portion that constitutes a part of the image forming apparatus shown in Fig. 5. The scanning type optical device shown in Fig. 6 forms an electrostatic latent image on the photosensitive drum by means of a polygon mirror 29 for deflecting the laser beam, which is emitted based on image information, in a scanning manner, f? lenses 30a and 30b for enabling constant speed scanning with the laser beam and for imaging the laser beam as a spot on the photosensitive drum, and a turn-back mirror 31 for reflecting the beam toward a predetermined direction. The scanning type optical device is vulnerable to dust and soil, and if some part in the optical path of the laser beam is soiled or contaminated, problems such as an image defect at the portion of an image that corresponds to the soil or insufficiency in toner at the portion of the image. In view of such problems, ~~moltopren~~ Moltopren (trademark) has been used to provide a sealing between an optics case 33 that accommodates optical parts and a top lid 34 as a countermeasure against entrance of dust. On the other hand, with the downsizing of the image forming apparatus main body, the location of the scanning type optical device has been made closer to the photosensitive drum. In addition, in the apparatus of this example, constituent parts are so arranged that the scanning type optical device is disposed below the drums in order to facilitate maintenance of portions in the circumference of the photosensitive members.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 9, line 16 and ending at page 10, line 6 to read, as follows.

--In this embodiment, the optics case top lid 10 is formed in such a shape that the optics case top lid 10 is placed below a plane "c" that includes edges of adjoining dust-proof glass plates 11, so that there is provided toner pool portions (i.e. [[a]] recessed portions) 9 that can receive a certain amount of toner that has slipped down. In addition, in order to prevent contamination of the dust-proof glass plates 11 by the scattering of the accumulated toner caused by slight airflow or some mechanical shock within the apparatus, ~~moltopren~~ Moltopren 12 is provided at the gaps between the optics case top lid 10 and the upper units such as the developing devices 3 to stop the gaps. With the above-described structure, the dust-proof glass plates 11 are difficult to be contaminated by fallen toner, and therefore image quality would be kept high. In addition, maintenance operations can be omitted or simplified.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 10, line 21 and ending at page 11, line 11 to read, as follows.

--On the optics case top lid 10 of the scanning type optical device that is disposed horizontally, a protecting ~~covers~~ cover 13 is provided in such a manner as to nearly cover each dust-proof glass plate 11, while leaving an area required for allowing irradiation of a laser beam onto a photosensitive drum 1. The dust-proof glass plate 11 is provided outside the space defined between the vertical plane at the open end of a developing device frame covering a developing roller that faces the photosensitive drum and the vertical tangential plane of a charging roller. The protecting cover 13 is provided for preventing the dust-proof glass plate 11 from being contaminated by toner dropping from upper structures

such as developing device 3 disposed on the right side of the protecting cover 13 as shown in Fig. 3 and by toner scattering (or flying) in the interior of the apparatus.--